

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 10, 12 and 20 as set forth in the listing of claims that follows:

1-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) An actuation lever assembly for operating a vehicle climate control unit, said actuation lever comprising:

a knob that includes a pocket having at least one inner peripheral surface;

a lever having a first end received in the pocket ~~for engaging and supporting said knob~~, said first end having a resiliently deflectable retaining member that engages at least one inner peripheral surface of said knob pocket to retain said knob on said lever, wherein said retaining member is harder than said knob, and wherein said retaining member includes a sharply pointed tip ~~which is embedded into~~ that pierces an inner peripheral surface of said knob pocket upon installation of said knob.

11. (Previously Presented) An actuation lever assembly as recited in claim 10, wherein said retaining member is integrally formed with said lever.

12. (Currently Amended) An actuation lever assembly as recited in claim 10, wherein said retaining member exhibits a substantially arched profile defining a first portion half that extends inwardly upward ~~from said lever~~ and a second portion half comprising a deflectable tine that extends outwardly downwardly ~~from said first end~~ portion.

13. (Previously Presented) An actuation lever assembly as recited in claim 12, wherein said tine deflects inwardly towards said longitudinal axis upon installation of said knob.

14. (Previously Presented) An actuation lever assembly as recited in claim 13, wherein a spring force generated by said deflected tine causes said retaining member to exert oppositely directed forces against at least one inner peripheral surface.

15-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) An actuation lever assembly as recited in claim 10, wherein said knob comprises a polymeric material and said lever comprises a metal.

18. (Previously Presented) An actuation lever assembly as recited in claim 10, wherein the force to apply said knob onto said lever does not exceed approximately 50 N.

19. (Previously Presented) An actuation lever assembly as recited in claim 10, wherein the force to remove said knob from said lever is at least approximately 20 N.

20. (Currently Amended) An actuation lever assembly for operating a vehicle climate control unit, said actuation lever comprising:

a knob that includes a pocket having at least one inner peripheral surface;

a lever having a first end received in the pocket ~~for engaging and supporting said knob~~, a second end configured for connection to the climate control unit and a longitudinal axis, said first end having a resiliently deflectable retaining member that engages at least one inner peripheral surface of said knob pocket to retain said knob on said lever; and

wherein said retaining member exhibits a substantially arched profile defining a first portion half that extends inward toward the longitudinal axis ~~upward from said lever~~ and a second portion half comprising a deflectable tine that extends outward relative to the longitudinal axis ~~downwardly from said first end~~ to a sharply pointed tip, said tine deflecting inwardly towards said longitudinal axis upon installation of said knob, and said sharply pointed tip ~~imbedding into~~ piercing an inner peripheral surface of said knob pocket upon installation of said knob.